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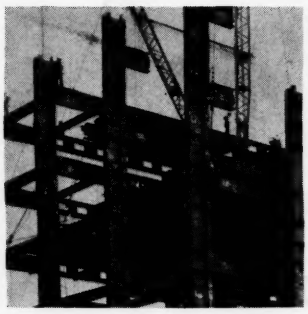

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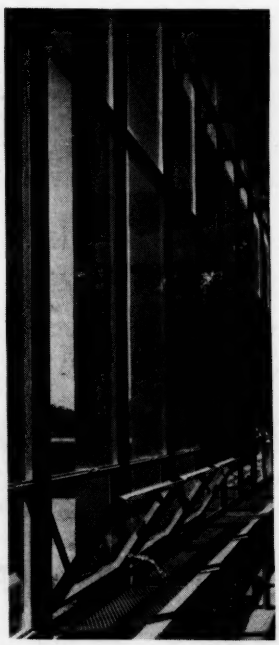

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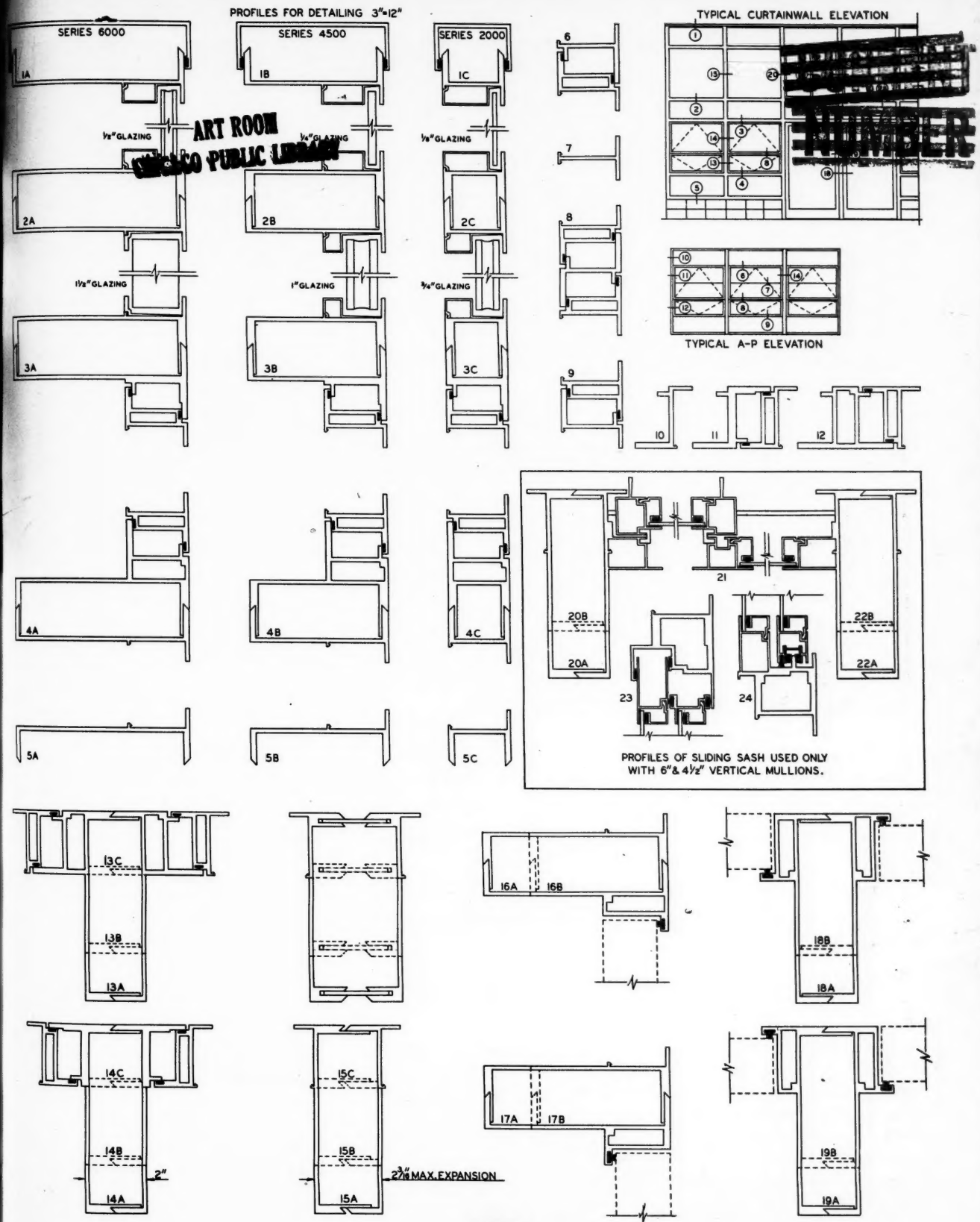

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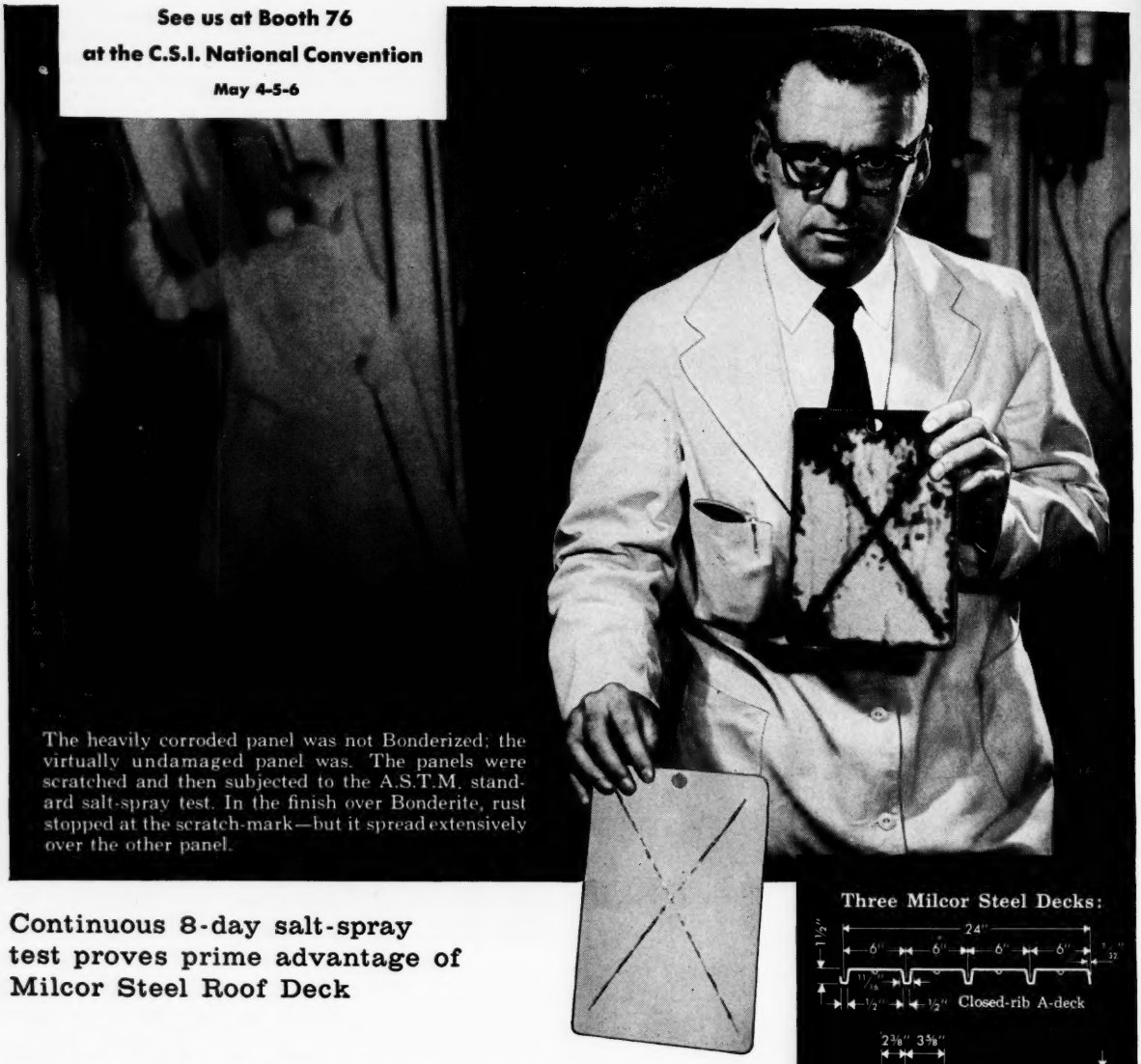

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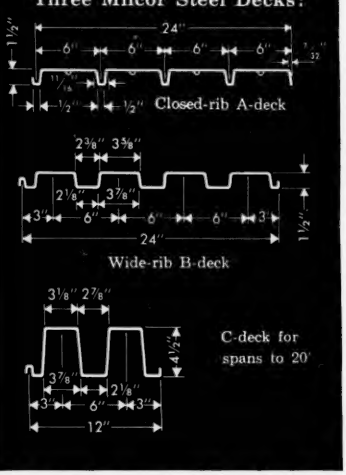

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COVER spotlights a short sampling of the parts and packages specifications spell out.

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Chicago AIA May Meeting

At the May meeting of the Chicago Chapter AIA, architectural students are inviting the practicing architects to a free-for-all discussion on architecture. To be held Tuesday May 12, it will face four prominent Chicago area architects against four students from IIT and the University of Illinois, keynoted by John Schlossman, recently returned from his Roach Traveling Scholarship. The meeting will be held at held at the Chicago Real Estate Board headquarters at 105 W. Madison, Chicago. Cocktails will begin at 5:30 P.M. and dinner at 6:30 P.M. Architects are especially invited to this meeting to meet their future.

Producers' Council Roof Seminar

A seminar on "Roofs" sponsored by the Chicago Chapter of the Producers' Council is to be held April 23 in the Terrace Casino of the Morrison Hotel, according to M. G. Jensen, Chicago Chapter President. "The seminar has been developed to help the architectural practitioner keep abreast of technological and design developments growing out of current research by manufacturers of building materials," he said.

The program will be divided into four phases: Type of Deck, Vapor Barrier, Insulation, and Roofing Material. Both fixed and poured types of insulation will be presented and two types of roofing, built-up and metal-covered will be discussed. Wood, metal and preformed wood fiber decks will be considered as will precast and poured lightweight concrete and poured gypsum roof decks. The four phases of the seminar are covered by twelve technical papers plus four panel discussions.

The panels, made up of technical experts in the subject, will convene to answer questions from the audience. A panel will be convened at the conclusion of each of the four phases. The seminar will cover a full day of discussions and papers.

The format is similar to that of the curtain wall seminar presented last year. A "Roof Manual" developed from the papers presented will be sent to those who attend. A seminar on Air Conditioning is in the planning stage.

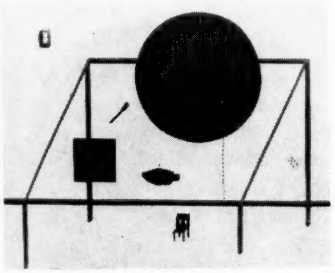
Congress in the Netherlands

The International Council for Building Research, Studies and Documentation is organizing an International Congress which will be held in Rotterdam, September 21 through 25, 1959. The Congress will be devoted entirely to topics of interest to the building industry. Special emphasis is to be placed on safety factors and construction in the tropics. For additional information write: The Secretariat of the CIB, c/o Bouwcentrum, PO Box 299, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

art at the aia

Continuing is the monthly series of exhibits of local artists' work arranged by the Chicago Chapter of Artists' Equity in the Chicago AIA offices at 221 North LaSalle.

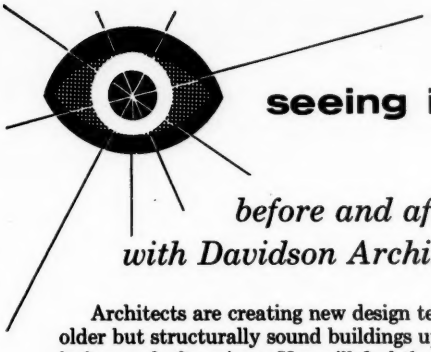
Work of William Stipe, painter, will be on display during the month of May in the Chicago Chapter offices. Surrealistic in nature, Mr. Stipes' canvasses reveal a completely individualistic technique. Common everyday objects such as playing cards, watches, furniture, safety pins, and utensils,



"Magic Meal" is the title given to this oil on canvas work by William Stipe.

realistically reproduced, make up the elements of his compositions. Backgrounds vary, but a checkerboard effect is characteristic.

Mr. Stipe is a product of three schools: the University of Iowa, the Museum School of Boston and the Institute of Design in Chicago. He has been winning prizes and showing his work in "one-man" shows since 1949. He is represented in the collections of colleges, private galleries and public museums throughout the country.



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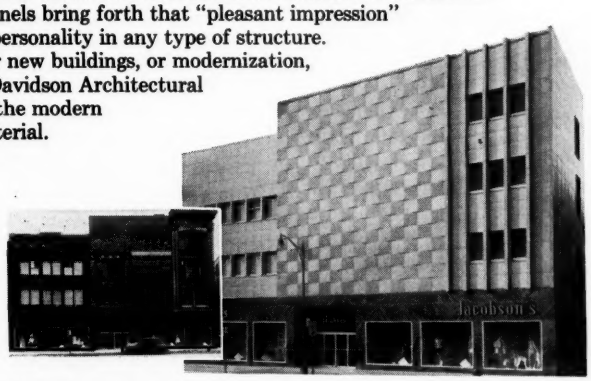

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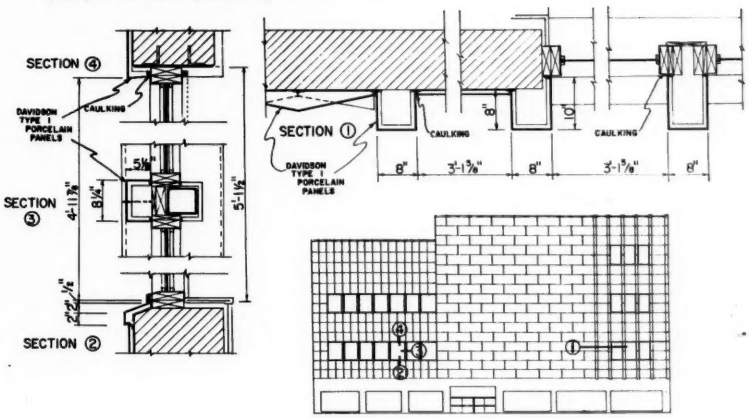

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Specifications Convention May 4-6

■ Thomas H. Creighton, Editor, *Progressive Architecture,* will be the featured speaker at the Annual Banquet of the Construction Specifications Institute on Wednesday, May 6th, reports Paul Tiffin, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, Architects and Engineers, program chairman for the Institute's Third National Convention which is to be held in the Palmer House, Chicago, May 4, 5, and 6, 1959. Mr. Creighton is a member of the American Institute of Architects and an Honorary Member of CSI. James C. Bort, chief specification writer, Schmidt, Garden and Erickson, Architects and Engineers, will be master of ceremonies.

Ira J. Bach, Commissioner of the Department of Chicago City Planning, and a nationally recognized expert in the field of planning and urban development will discuss a development plan for the Central area of Chicago at the convention's luncheon session, May 6. CSI Director, H. Griffith Edwards, Edwards and Portman, Architects, Atlanta, will preside.

At lunch on Tuesday, May 5th a representative of the Specification Writers Association of Canada will speak.

At the luncheon session, Monday, May 4th, Philip Will, Jr., partner in the architectural firm of Perkins and Will, and Vice-President of the American Institute of Architects, will be guest speaker. Others who will be with Mr. Will at the Speaker's table include: M. G. Jensen, President, Chicago Chapter, Producer's Council; John Fugard, Jr., President, Chicago Chapter, AIA; and Paul Lauschke, President of the Chicago Chapter, Associated General Contractors of America. Director, Glen Abplanalp, Havens and Emerson, New York, will preside.

Construction Specifications Institute delegates from throughout the country, representing the Institute's 30 Chapters, and more than 3,200 members are expected to attend. More than eighty manufacturers will have building materials and equipment on display in the Palmer House exhibit hall during the three day Convention.

The Chicago Chapter, CSI, will hold its annual dinner and installation of officers Monday evening, May 4th at the Palmer House in conjunction with the CSI's national convention. Benjamin C. Willis, General Superintendent of Schools, Chicago Board of Education, will be guest speaker and Warren Richardson, President of the Chicago Chapter will preside.

Five general sessions are scheduled, two each on Monday and Tuesday, May 4th and 5th and one on Wednesday, May 6th. Tuesday morning May 5th, Henry T. J. Martin, an Institute Director, associated with the architectural firm of George L. Dahl, in Dallas, Texas, will moderate a panel entitled, "Or Equal." Col. A. W. Sikes, Honorary CSI member, and Specification Engineer for the Chicago Park District will preside. Panel members are to be: Kenneth Wilson, E. F. Klinger and Associates, Architects and Engineers, Eau Claire, Wisconsin; Charles Hart, National Electrical Contractors Association, Washington, D. C.; Terrell Harper, Harper & Kemp, Architects, Dallas, Texas; and Leslie M. Lowery, Detroit, Michigan.

The opening session on Monday morning will have Harry Plummer, the Institute's Secretary and Treasurer, as presiding officer. Mr. Plummer is Director of Engineering and Technology for the Structural Clay Products Institute in Washington, D. C. Warren Richardson, an executive with Ralph Stoetzel, Architect and Engineer, Chicago, Chairman of the Institute's Convention Committee, and President of its Chicago Chapter, and J. Stewart Stein, of Sobel & Stein, Architects and Engineers, Chicago, President of CSI, will welcome the delegates at this session and George Lamb, CSI Executive Secretary, Washington, D. C., will speak.

R. Redmond Coghlan, Jr., Director of the Institute, who is with Smith, Powell and Morgridge, Los Angeles, Calif., and Rolf Retz, Director of CSI and Assistant Supervising Specification Writer, California State Division of Architecture, Sacramento, Calif., will preside, respectively, at the Monday and Tuesday afternoon general sessions which will be devoted primarily to Institute business.

The Tuesday afternoon session will include concurrent technical committee panels covering various phases of specification preparation including civil engineering, architectural, general conditions, mechanical, electrical and specifications methods.

The general session on Wednesday morning is to be the Institute's annual meeting. □

Commodity Standards Aid Architects

■ Since 1927 the Commodity Standards Division of the Department of Commerce has been aiding the building industry in establishing quality specifications for its products. These measures of quality are known as "Commercial Standards" and are also described as voluntary recorded standards of the trade. These standards are developed in cooperation with the interested industries upon initiation by the industries themselves. Ultimately their development requires consideration and acceptance by all segments of an industry, including producers, distributors, architects, contractors, testing laboratories, and users.

Among the building products covered by Commercial Standards are lumber and wood products, millwork, plumbing fixtures, pipe, and heating equipment, to name but a few. (A complete list is available upon request.) They provide minimum requirements, terminology, types, classification, grades, sizes, use characteristics and tests.

They also provide for certification to give assurance that the product meets the Commercial Standard. This is usually accomplished by a label attached to the article or a certificate furnished with it. Certain building products, such as plywood, may have each piece marked by a stamp giving the manufacturer's name and showing that it is a certain grade covered by the Commercial Standard. The grade mark may be supplemented by a mark identifying the laboratory that tested it. Commercial Standards may thus serve as the basis for guaranteeing the quality of the material specified.

Architects find the standards of particular value as a guide to manufactured items available, and in many cases the standards become an integral part of their building specifications. They may also be utilized in construction manuals, building codes, and purchase specifications.

How Commercial Standards Are Developed

Basically, there are five major steps in establishing a Commercial Standard. These are: request, draft, adjustment, acceptance and publication.

Request from industry. Before any standard is undertaken by the Division, a request for its establishment must be received in writing from a responsible industry group. The written request may be from any of the aforementioned segments of the industry.

Draft of proposed standard. The proponent or requesting group also submits a draft of the proposed standard, or sufficient information for the preparation of a draft by the Division. Often a "technical committee" is formed by the proponents to do this specific job. When the draft is prepared and submitted to the Division, it is reviewed and considered with the assistance of other Government offices that may be in a position to give helpful advice, such as the National Bureau of Standards and the Federal Trade Commission.

Adjustment of proposed standard. The draft is then circulated by the Division to leading manufacturers, distributors, architects, testing laboratories and users for their comments on the proposal. These comments are reviewed with the

proponent group to obtain their recommendations. If need be, conferences of interested groups are held and the proposal is reviewed and resubmitted to secure constructive recommendations from all concerned. When all comments and recommendations have been considered, the proposal is adjusted to secure the widest concurrence.

Acceptance of the adjusted standard. The adjusted draft is then circulated by the Division as a "recommended standard" to a large group of producers, distributors, architects, testing laboratories and users for written acceptance. This circulation is sufficiently broad to cover substantially all interests in the industry. Attached to each "recommended standard" is an acceptance statement to be signed by an officer of the company and returned to the Commodity Standards Division. When signed the company goes on record as being a voluntary acceptor and states that it will use the standard as far as practicable in its business. Since the standards are all voluntary, no compulsion is involved. The Division records and keeps the acceptances on file.

Publication of the accepted standard. When a sufficient number of signed acceptances have been returned to show general industry support, with no valid opposition, the standard is promulgated. This is accomplished by an official announcement of the Department of Commerce, establishing the accepted standard and giving it an effective date. The standard is also given a number, and is printed as a Department of Commerce Publication. The names of all acceptors are listed in the printed Commercial Standard.

Coincident with the publication or establishment of a Commercial Standard is the formation of a Standing Committee. The Committee membership is a composite of the various segments of the industry. The purpose of this committee is to make recommendations on revisions as they become necessary or are proposed by the industry.

The Commodity Standards Division, Office of Technical Services, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C. is the coordinating agency in developing Commercial Standards. Requests for further information should be sent to this Division. □

Telephone Planned

by WILLIAM R. DUTCHER
Home Telephone Planning Service Manager,
Illinois Bell Telephone Company

■ The residential client is becoming more and more convenience minded, and an important part of today's residential planning is telephone-planning, making telephone service available where it is wanted, or may be wanted, in each room. The day of one telephone centrally located in a home is a thing of the past.

Called 'advanced wiring,' 'concealed wiring,' 'pre-wiring,' telephone-planning is just these things, the locating of telephone outlets and wiring before construction. Results are no wires showing, outlets inconspicuous, well located. This pre-planning makes special sense in today's buildings where there often is no trim or moldings to lead wires along. Such preliminary work by architect, owner, and telephone company representative is time well spent, pays off in convenience later, with initial costs uniformly low, varying some from area to area.

Starts with Studs

Actual installation starts as soon as the wall studs are placed. For complete flexibility for multi-line service, branch wiring is run from each outlet to a central cross-connecting terminal. In homes with basements, this terminal is usually

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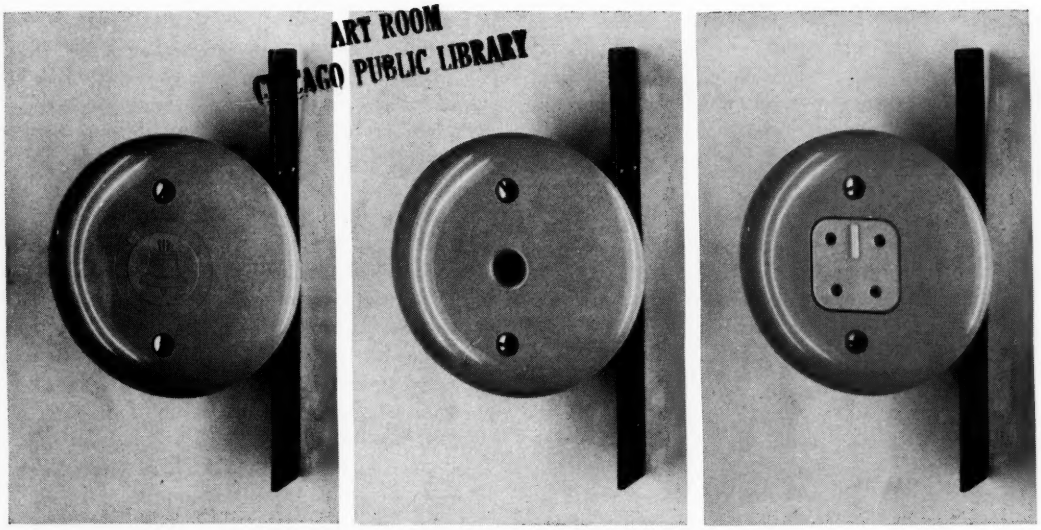


Above are outlet plates, left to right: blank for inactive outlets; round hole for a "live" phone wire; outlet plug for a "jack-type" or portable phone.

located there, otherwise, it's placed in the attic space.

The wire from the central terminal is brought through either the bottom or top wall plate, depending on the location of the terminal, and is stapled neatly to a floor or ceiling joist for the remainder of the run to the outlet.

At each outlet, the wire is terminated at a plastic connecting block attached to a circular bracket nailed to the stud. One of three types of round, 3¼ inch faceplates is installed after the final interior wall finish is applied to the studs. One type of these plastic faceplates has a round hole for a "live" phone wire, a second has a receptacle, similar to an electrical outlet plug, for a "jack-type" or portable phone, and the third has a blank face for inactive outlets.

Because only very low amperage and voltage is used for phone service, no conduit is required. Thus, the branch wiring installation is simple, and can be done easily and quickly. When the telephones are installed, there is no drilling or pounding gaping holes in walls. The telephone company installers merely connect the telephones to the connecting-block wires and place the appropriate cover plate on the wall.

Footnotes and Flexibility

The installation simply follows the telephone outlet symbols on the architect's plans, footnoted 'to be installed by Telephone Company.' Outlets located in the different rooms, and on different walls in each room, will provide the kind of flexibility and convenience home owners want and are coming to expect. Locating *outlets* does not mean there are to be phones all over, but that a phone *can be* placed in a room, or in some particular location in room, without awkward extension cords or exposed wiring.

Another, perhaps close-to-home, point to remember is the always present penchant for moving furniture. Outlets available on more than one wall will fill this bill. For example, bedrooms usually have two walls suitable to set the beds and nightstands against, usually they're adjacent walls. Here outlets about 18 inches from the corners would provide "coverage." Obviously there are many special conditions, room types, floor levels, and the facts of family growth to consider. The important thing is to provide for them in the beginning with telephone-planning offered by your telephone company. □

How To Specify Brick and Tile

■ Standard specifications for the various types and grades of brick and tile have been developed through technical committees of the American Society for Testing Materials. Membership of these committees is balanced among consumers, manufacturers and a general interest group made up of engineers, scientists, educators, testing experts and representatives of research organizations. Because of this balance of committee membership, ASTM specifications are widely accepted and it is recommended that the appropriate ASTM specifications be included by reference in all specifications for brick, structural clay tile or structural facing tile.

Specifications of the Facing Tile Institute may be used in lieu of ASTM specifications in specifying structural facing tile or the products may be required to meet the requirements of either specification. Copying excerpts from ASTM specifications into job specifications is not recommended. Such a practice frequently results in the omission of pertinent sections of the specifications which may lead to misunderstanding, dispute and possible law suits.

ASTM specifications for brick and tile do not fix the size or color and texture of the units, but cover a range of sizes and a wide variety of colors and textures. Most of these specifications also include requirements for several grades and types of products, and some of them contain optional requirements which are applicable to specific jobs, if so specified.

When ASTM specifications are included in job specifications by reference, it is essential that they be supplemented with job requirements covering size, color, grade and so forth. Without these supplementary provisions, the specifications are incomplete and inadequate as a basis for estimating.

Product Specifications

Size. Size of units required should always be included in the job specifications. Without this information, a contractor cannot accurately estimate the labor required to construct the masonry. In general, the smaller the unit the more labor required to lay it.

It is recommended that the specified size be the manufactured size; that is, the dimension that the manufacturer attempts to meet. Individual unit dimensions may vary from the specified or manufactured size by the amounts specified in the appropriate ASTM specifications for the particular grade.

Specifying "nominal" sizes of clay masonry units is not recommended, due to the ambiguity of the term nominal. In some fields, it is understood to mean approximate and actual dimensions may vary from the nominal only by permissible variations in dimensions included in the specifications. However, in modular design, the nominal dimension of a masonry unit is understood to mean the specified or manufactured dimension plus the thickness of the mortar joint with which the unit is designed to be laid. That is, a modular brick, whose nominal length

is 8 inches, would have a specified (manufactured) dimension of 7½ inches if designed to be laid with a ½ inch joint, or 7⅝ inches if designed to be laid with a ⅜ inch joint.

Color and Texture. Probably the color and texture of no two brick or structural facing tile are exactly alike and these variations, which prevent monotony in the appearance of the finished wall, are, in the minds of many designers, one of the most attractive features of brick and tile. However, in view of these variations and of the wide variety of colors and textures produced by the industry, it is impossible to write descriptions of either color or texture which will accurately identify the products required.

For this reason, ASTM specifications for brick and tile provide that texture and color shall conform to an approved sample showing the full range of color and texture that will be acceptable. The number of units required in the sample will depend upon the range of color and texture and, in general, will be from three to five.

Grade and Type. Most ASTM specifications for brick and structural clay facing tile cover two or more grades, and specifications for facing brick and ceramic glazed structural facing tile include requirements for two or more types. Specifications for structural clay facing tile cover two types and two classes.

Job Specifications

When these specifications are included in job specifications by reference, it is essential that the grade and type or type and class of product required be specified. Failure to do so makes it impossible for the contractor to estimate the job and frequently results in a demand for extras after the contract is awarded.

Plaster Base Finish. Specifications for structural clay facing tile and structural clay tile contain requirements for the finish of surfaces suitable for the application of plaster. When such surfaces are required, they should be specified in the job specifications; otherwise, the finish of the unexposed side (back) of the unit is optional with the supplier.

Tests. Most ASTM specifications for structural clay products provide that the cost of tests of units furnished for any particular job "shall be borne by the purchaser," unless the tests indicate that the units do not conform to the requirements of the specifications, in which case "the cost shall be borne by the seller." Job specifications should state the number of tests that will be required and should indicate who is responsible for selecting the samples and who pays the cost of testing.

As previously indicated, it is recommended that ASTM specifications, supplemented to meet job requirements, be used in specifying brick and tile. These specifications are suitable for use in any of the following forms:

1. OPEN SPECIFICATIONS. This type of specifications, frequently required in public work, makes no reference to product trade names. In such a specification, the appropriate ASTM specifications should be included by reference, supplemented with job requirements and an "approved sample" of the required color and texture should be available for inspection by bidders prior to submission of bids.

2. TRADE NAMES. For private work, specifying facing brick and structural facing tile by trade names gives the contractor definite information as to the products required and provides the architect with assurance that the quality desired will be furnished.

In general, when this method is used, three or more acceptable products are named and the contractor is given the option of selecting among them.

When trade names are used for specifying brick and tile, it is recommended that a sample of the units be available for inspection of bidders prior to bidding and that a provision for substitution similar to that recommended by the BRI Specifications Workshop be included in the specifications.

3. ALLOWANCES. The use of allowances for cost of facing brick and facing tile has been used successfully for many years and, in general, this method is recommended by the Structural Clay Products Institute. Allowances place all contractors on an equal bidding basis and permit the owner to select products that he considers most desirable. However, when this method is employed, the specifications should state the size of the units that will be selected, the tests that will be required and responsibility for payment of tests. □

Structural Timber and Laminated Lumber

by JACK PURCELL
Director, Public Information,
American Institute of Timber Construction

■ Structural timber framing and glued laminated lumber offer the architect structural systems that can be imaginatively sculptural, warm in tone and texture, light and airy or husky and powerful, but always strong and sure. Assuring that they will always be strong and sure is the purpose of the American Institute of Timber Construction.

The Institute's largest single project at present is the development of a Quality Control and Inspection Program to maintain and further develop high quality standards for industry products. It is intended that these standards will include manufacture of glued laminated lumber, and fabrication and assembly of sawn and glued laminated lumber. The program would cover materials, workmanship, tolerances, structural and appearance grades, standard sizes, tests, inspection and re-inspection, product identification, and so on—a big job and an expensive job that the member companies are sharing in. It is a necessary and important job to make certain that the industry's products are strong and sure.

Making sure their products are correctly specified and used is another responsibility of the Institute, guarding against such things happening as this one example:

In the case of a date warehouse, the architect did not specify that he wanted *waterproof* adhesives used, and the fabricator used a *water resistant* adhesive. The fabricator did not know that a high humidity would be maintained within the warehouse to keep the dates soft and pliant. He should have been supplied with this information.

In its Guide Specifications on Structural Timber Framing, Section 900, the Institute sets forth clearly important points the specification writer should follow. Excerpted here are a few items:

Specifications for structural glued laminated lumber and sawn structural timber should be included in the Structural Timber Framing section of the job specifications and not included in the Carpentry or Millwork section. Glued laminated members should be subject to stringent manufacturer's quality control and adherence to AITC Standards and Inspection Manual. Lumber stress values and appearance grades should be specified, but the fabricator should be permitted to select the actual stock satisfying these requirements. The specifier should be clear about where waterproof or water resistant adhesives should be used. Protection of members is but one more item covered, and necessary for the specifier to cover.

As always is the case, knowing how to properly specify exactly the appropriate product is the surest way to a satisfactory job. The Institute's job is to help its members make better products and the architect to use the right product properly. □

Copies of the Guide Specifications, Section 900 can be obtained from the American Institute of Timber Construction, 1757 K St. N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

Five Ways To Specify

Five Approaches to Specification Preparation Outlined at Workshop

■ During recent years numerous methods for reducing constantly mounting building costs have been explored. One means which many segments of the construction industry believe holds promise of lowering these costs is the use of specific, definitive and concise specifications which convey to the estimator the exact requirements of the job and are so organized as to facilitate take-off and estimating. Many general contractors have testified that the use of such specifications results in lower contract bids.

Many professional organizations, such as the American Institute of Architects, Producers' Council, Associated General Contractors, National Electrical Contractors Association, and the Construction Specifications Institute, have made the improvement of construction specifications one of their major activities, and the widespread interest in this subject is demonstrated by the growth of the Construction Specifications Institute, whose membership has increased substantially during the past year.

On February 27-28, 1957, the Building Research Institute of the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, sponsored a Specifications Workshop to which approximately sixty architects, contractors, engineers, manufacturers, trade association executives and government officials were invited. This group included representatives of 23 professional societies and trade associations and is believed to be the broadest cross-section of the industry ever assembled to consider the subject.

It was generally recognized by those attending the BRI Specifications Workshop, previously referred to, that no single method of specifying quality and physical characteristics of building products is applicable to all cases. The following methods currently used for specifying materials were discussed and their advantages and limitations noted.

1. *Use of Standards.* It was recommended that, where suitable standards exist, such as those developed by the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM), American Standards Association (ASA), American Concrete Institute (ACI) and similar nationally recognized organizations, they be used and included in the job specifications by reference. However, it was recognized that such standards are not available for some building products.

2. *Use of Detailed Descriptive Requirements.* While detailed descriptive requirements are generally necessary as a means of specifying installation and workmanship, it was recommended that, in specifying materials, they should be used only as a last resort.

3. *Use of Performance Specifications.* Performance specifications were not, in general, considered suitable for specifying architectural building products. It was recommended that, if performance specifications are used to specify building materials, they should state results desired or properties desired and method of application, but not both.

4. *Use of Trade Names.* It was recommended that, if building products are specified by trade name, the "special conditions" contain a clause providing that substitutes will be considered on a quality and price basis and that **the phrase "or equal," frequently included in such specifications, be eliminated.**

The following paragraph, providing for substitutions, was suggested:

"Variation from Materials Specified: It is intended that materials or products specified by name of manufacturer, brand, trade name or by catalogue reference, shall be the basis of the bid and furnished under the contract, unless changed by mutual agreement. Where two or more materials are named, the choice of these shall be optional with the contractor. Should the contractor wish to use any materials or products other than those specified, he shall so state, naming the proposed substitutions and stating what difference, if any, will be made in the contract price for such substitution should it be accepted."

5. *Use of Allowances.* It was recommended that "allowances should be used only with great discretion"; and: "In all cases of allowances there should be sufficient description to indicate to the contractor the extent of labor required to install the items for which allowances are listed. Also, all the allowances should be listed under special conditions or under a separate section with cross reference to the individual trade sections involved." □

Concrete Masonry Specifications

by CLYDE STEWART

President, Autoclave Building Products Assoc.

■ To be most effective, a good building specification must spell out *exactly what* materials will be used and how they are to be assembled in order to produce certain *exact* results . . . whether the results be aesthetic or structural.

Aside from the personal experience of the specification writer or architect, a sound basis for many materials are national specifications such as the American Society for Testing Materials, Federal Specifications, Trade Associations and Institutes and the Manufacturers of the various components.

Generally, since national agencies are "neutral," the specification writer likes to follow their suggestions providing the specification is up to date. Unfortunately, national specifications usually lag behind product development, making it expedient for the writer to go to trade associations or manufacturers for specifications and data to support product claims.

Concrete Masonry Example

One example of antiquated specifications is that of concrete masonry units . . . specifically, hollow concrete block.

The current ASTM specification was written in 1931 and has had only minor revision since that time. The current Federal Specification for block was written in 1931 with few minor changes to date.

At the time these specifications were written, block occupied something of a debatable place in the construction industry. Its uses were limited to below grade construction, second class buildings and backup work.

The average hourly production of the block machine was perhaps 400 8″ block per hour. Only 87 million 8″ block were made during the year 1931. Today a modern block machine will make 1000 perfectly molded block per hour. Nearly 2¼ billion block were produced last year.

In addition to improved manufacturing techniques, a new curing method has come into wide use, which has upgraded modern concrete masonry to the point where the proper block can be used in practically every building in many different treatments.

New Uses Proven

These uses are no longer experimental, but have been proven over 10 years usage. Many of the present published specifications make no provision for these new uses, nor do they spell out how this new kind of masonry unit is to

be delineated.

Aside from new shapes and sizes, an entirely new manufacturing process—high pressure steam curing—has been in use for more than 10 years. Autoclaving produces a concrete block having the majority of shrinkage removed, possessing greater strength, lighter weight and color than block generally produced at the time most national specifications were written.

All of these new and desirable characteristics can be developed in a few hours, whereas weeks were necessary to develop a far less desirable block heretofore. Although autoclave processing equipment is expensive, there are now more than 100 producers well distributed throughout the United States generally making this unit at nc increased price over other block in the area.

High Pressure Steam Curing

The method referred to is autoclaving or high pressure steam curing. "Green" units are sealed in autoclaves (up to 130′ long) and for approximately eight hours subjected to temperatures as high as 366° F at a steam pressure of 150 psi. Ordinary curing systems generally employ a temperature of only 170° F.

Greater block stability (less wall shrinkage), lighter weight and better color are achieved because the high pressure steam causes a chemical change—lime hydrolized from cement and silica combine chemically to form a unique crystalline structure called hydrogarnets. This exact structure never occurs in the normal hydration of cement over any period of time under any other curing condition, which accounts for the unique and exclusive product characteristics.

In addition, autoclaving is a self-imposed test against the conditions that cause spalling and popping—high pressure steam curing insures the testing of every block for spalling and popping before the block is delivered.

Merits Recognized Nationally

Merits of this improved unit are now being rapidly recognized by specifying bodies, and changes will be made shortly bringing the specifications up to date. Some well known agencies already recognize the superiority of autoclaved block and have written their specifications accordingly. One of these is the Corps of Engineers. Its specification clearly specifies less wall reinforcement and fewer control joints where low-shrinkage block are used.

The Housing and Home Finance Agency in one of their final papers include very specific data on the effect of autoclaving on block of various aggregates. The American Concrete Institute was one of the very first to officially announce the merits of autoclaved block. Here are the most important advantages as outlined by an ACI Committee:

1. Concrete masonry products can be produced by high pressure steam curing methods ready for use within 24 hours after molding.
2. High pressure steam curing is completed without substantial change in shape or size or cracks.
3. High pressure steam cured units are substantially in a drier condition and lighter in color than moist cured units, and give a clear ring when tested with a hammer.
4. Compressive strength of high pressure steam cured units at one day is at least equal to that of moist cured units at 28 days.
5. The shrinkage of high pressure steam cured units in drying from a saturated condition to equilibrium with air in a heated building, is about 50% less than moist cured units.
6. High pressure steam curing treatment tends to stabilize unsound materials that otherwise result in popping or spalling in service.

To insure good performance on a national basis and enable the architect to specify with complete confidence, the Autoclave Building Products Association has prepared a suggested specification for high pressure steam cured block. This specification reads as follows:

Short Form Specifications

Masonry Units

Concrete Masonry Units shall be AUTOCLAVED ('high pressure steam cured in a pressure vessel') in accordance with Autoclave Building Products Association Standard and applicable ASTM and local specifications and/or codes.

ASTM C-90 Hollow Load-bearing Concrete Masonry Units

ASTM C-129 Hollow Non-load-bearing Concrete Masonry Units

ASTM C-145 Solid Load-bearing Concrete Masonry Units

ASTM C-55 Concrete Building Brick □

Simplified Roofing Specifications

by RALPH R. MARKS
President, Chicago Roofing Contractors' Association

■ In the many roofing applications now being done, many more problems have been resulting from the use of new roofing materials, decks, insulations, new designs in construction, and all the ambiguities in existing roofing manuals. For these reasons the Chicago Roofing Contractors' Association, in cooperation with the Chicago Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute, took on the task of writing an all new and simplified approach to the selection of proper built-up roofing specifications.

Objectives of the new specifications are to indicate the right felts, number of plies and the type of bitumen to use for each job, and to use the kind of roof that is right for the particular job, not because of any bond or guarantee, and then follow up with the right kind of maintenance.

Taken into account too was the fact that roofing cannot always be applied under ideal weather conditions.

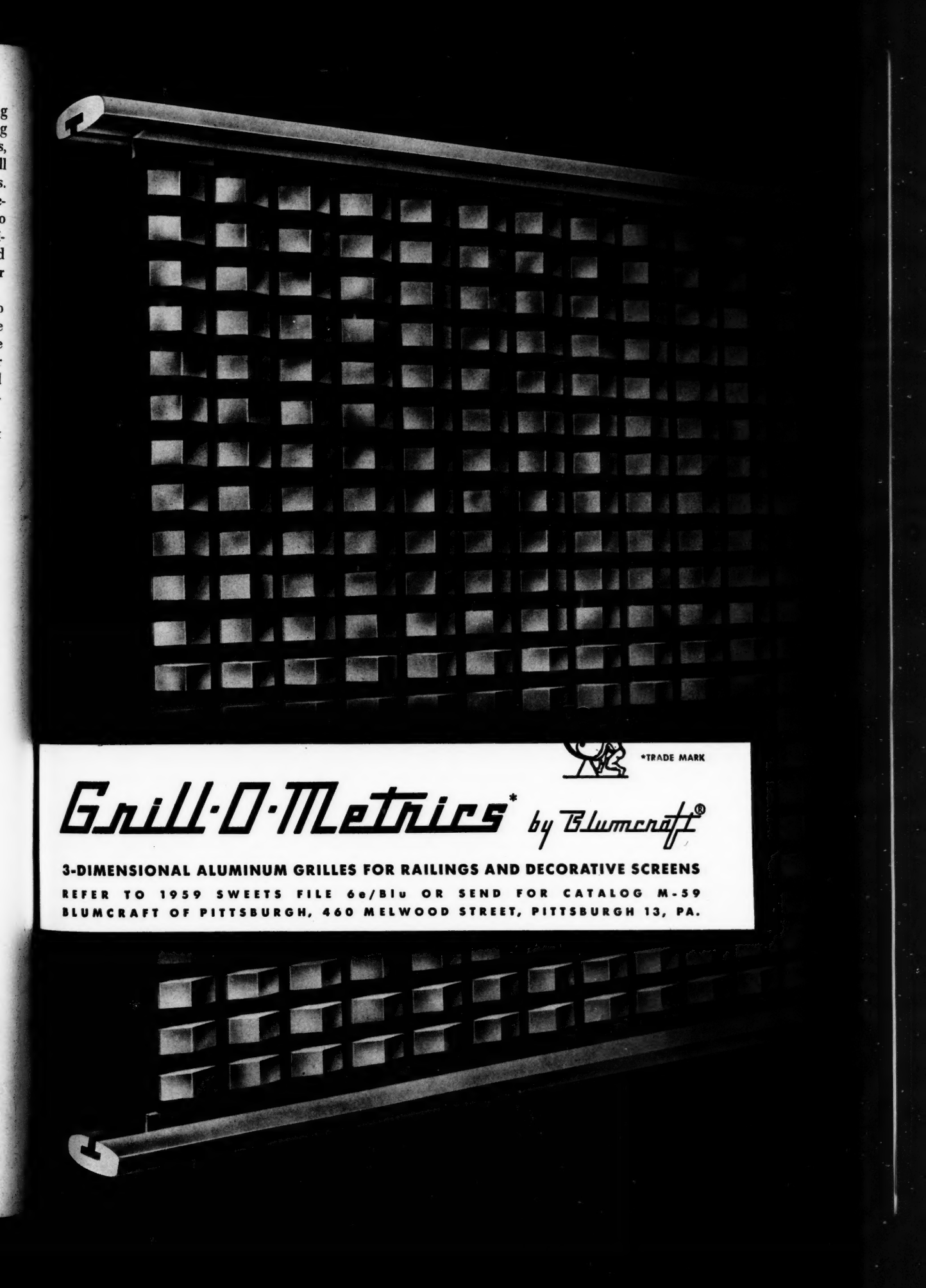
All the information has been assembled into a spiral bound book conveniently tabbed and indexed into the various kinds of decks the roofing is to be applied on, material definitions and specification requirements, flashings and details, and sundry information.

Each deck category is subdivided as to the incline of the decking and the right roofing for the particular deck of a particular incline. Insulations and vapor seals likewise are covered in relation to each particular deck and incline condition.

Recommended are such safeguards as double-poured and gravel coatings to armor the roof against standing snows and water, such as this season has brought, and as a protection when the roofing must be applied in inclement weather. Coated base felts are also suggested as safeguards against wrinkling from moisture conditions, and as a type of temporary roofing over certain kinds of sensitive decks. Intentionally missing from the Manual is information on certain new types of roofing materials and decks very recently developed. Rather than present incomplete and inconclusive information about them, they will be covered in later supplements of this Manual as their performance and results become more thoroughly known.

Set down simply with the facts all there, this Manual we believe will save time for the architect and make positive his roofing results. □

Copies of the New Simplified Built Up Roofing Specifications, $5.00 per copy, may be obtained from the Chicago Roofing Contractors' Association, Room 814, 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago 6.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Chicago AIA Comment

a column about AIA Chicago Chapter matters and members by R. Rea Esgar, AIA.

You read last month in these pages President JOHN FUGARD, JR.'s report of how a paint manufacturing firm of national reputation is engaged in package dealing a new building in the Chicago area. You read how they professed utter ignorance of our professional standards designed to help the architect render impartial judgment. None of you could have helped but wonder how far this same type of careless ineptitude pervades their other activities particularly the manufacture and sales promotion work for their product.

There are object lessons here for all of us and if the plea of ignorance is valid then the first lesson is this: When you enter a new field consult its experts. In the field of paint there are ample numbers of reliable experts such as Cabot, Devoe and Reynolds, Glidden, Martin-Senour, Benjamin Moore, O'Brien, Pittsburgh, Sherwin-Williams, and others. We must confess to having done a poor job of public education inside our own building industry when the national and local officers of a prominent manufacturer claim gross ignorance of architecture's professional ethics and standards.

□

The AIA both nationally and chapter-wise does a poor job also in letting its own membership know what the organization is doing to help the cause of good architecture and us architects. As members it may be partially our own fault for not reading the *Memo, Journal* and INLAND ARCHITECT more thoroughly, but we are busy people and cannot choose to read all the material we receive purporting to be necessary in keeping us up to date. Right or wrong this is the way it is.

The remedy, therefore, is news and product information in capsule form. Let's start a campaign against lengthy sales pitches or long peons of praise sung at many when only a few can be interested. The 300 to 400 page magazines could be reduced to something almost readable!

□

I ran a weight test in the office a short time ago, and not counting blue prints or regular magazines, out of every 14 pounds of mail received 13 pounds and 12 ounces went into the waste basket. Only 4 ounces were worth saving in the opinion of one architect who admits to ignorance, but who would like to learn. I looked at every sheet, remembered all that I had to do in the time available and with a faint smile for the agency people who created the "pitches" dropped them in the circular container. Is it that way with you too?

□

Dr. A. A. Bates, chief of the PCA Research and Development section, recently wrote as follows, "No research worker in any very active field of science and technology can any longer pretend to read more than a small fraction of the important papers which bear directly upon his professional interests and activities. His task now is not to read more, but rather to read less relative to the increasing mass which bears down upon him. Many ways of doing this are undergoing study; among these is the development of a form of scientific literature which collates, condenses, and provides useful and provocative interpretation of the masses of highly detailed original papers which emanate from our research centers." Even the scientist must use the circular file!

□

From time to time we will try here to mention the activities of our professional organization in the interest of better general understanding and appreciation. Forgive the dry introduction to national organization work which follows.

AIA Document No. 278-C, Edition of 1958, is entitled "Committee Structure of the American Institute of Architects." This 26 page booklet lists some 49 committees under descriptions of Basic, Standing, Board, Vertical and General, not to mention Special, Steering and Temporary. All of these come under the three general classifications of Basic, Standing and Temporary.

If you accept an appointment to a national committee and attend a meeting away from Chicago your transportation will be reimbursed and you will

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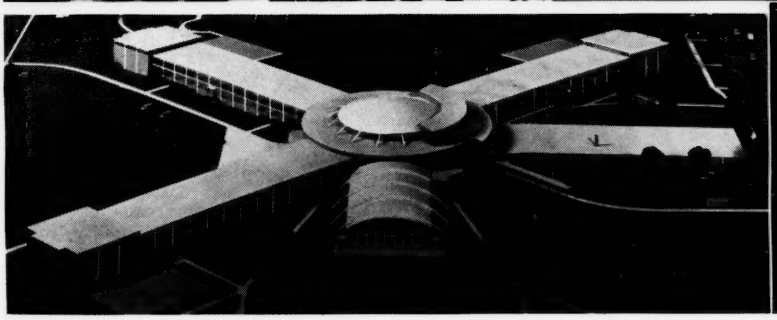
another Vierling Victory in Time and Money Saved



A view of the model of Maine Township's new high school accommodating three separate 1000-student, four-year academic schools radiating from one central administrative and service core.

Architects & Engineers—Childs & Smith

General Contractor—
Fred Berglund & Sons, Inc.

Seldom does one job contain all the unusual elements that can occur in a construction assignment. The job at Maine Township High School proved to be just that.

Vierling was selected to provide custom dome ribs, bent to form a perfect arch, to maintain the aesthetic light floating feeling so desirably blueprinted by Childs & Smith, architects. Naturally, time was a factor. The principal problem, however, was how efficiently the dome could be closed, as even a fractional error in fabrication would compound itself into a glaring misalignment at closure. Steel erectors were amazed at the remarkable precision with which each piece fit. The closure? . . . it was perfect . . . the entire job completed in record time. Investigate the know-how of Vierling when your next job calls for steel.

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receive $6.00 per diem in transit and $15.00 per day at the city of meeting, not including tips and taxi fares. Your time away from home and business is your contribution.

Chicago Chapter members listed as Committeemen or delegates include LICHTMAN, ALSCHULER, JR., WEESE, WILL, JR., SCHLOSSMAN, YOST, WHEELER, FUGARD, SHAW, REED, COCHRAN and SERON. These are the names who are presenting the Chicago viewpoint to the national organization.

□

Locally the Research Committee has made itself known by calling for all researchers to get in touch with the chairman, WILSON CONNELL. They have come up with a 9-page treatise entitled "A Design Approach to Fireproofing Structures." It delves into methods of forecasting fire resistance for various combinations of materials by formula rather than by separate tests for each combination. We hope a condensed version can be obtained for publication here. The authors are KENNETH R. WOODS and FREDERICK A. THULIN, JR., both AIA.

HAROLD GEILMAN should also be mentioned as guiding influence in setting up the Glass Seminar a real step in getting industry wide educational meetings without the material being slanted toward sales.

□

We can all sympathize with one active and capable chairman, LEON HYZEN, Civilian Defense and Disaster Committee. Leon has found the great lethargy in the general area of civilian defense difficult to cope with and one doesn't just go out looking for disasters. He has let it be known that his committee wants to be doing something worthwhile and that they are willing to listen to suggestions. Do you have any?

□

A business trip to Toledo, O., recently found me in the architectural offices of BELLMAN, GILLETT AND RICHARDS, in the office of our national president JOHN NOBLE RICHARDS, F.A.-I.A. For over three hours we talked business and AIA affairs generally, lucky to have found him geographically at home. I would like to report to you that President Richards is tackling the AIA job with great enthusiasm in quarters and at levels where it will do the profession great benefit. He is a genuine practicing architect and is also concerned with footings, flashings and flare even as you and I. He got an obvious "kick" out of the Octagon "Memo" calling him "Roving Richards" but admitted to probably deserving the title in view of his recent widespread speaking engagements. His partner (they total 6) ORVILLE H. BAUER, A.I.A., is, at age 37, past president of the Toledo Chapter.

□

Mentioning any phase of Chapter Committee work without mentioning the Refresher Course would be unthinkable. WALTER H. SOBEL is prime mover in this one with HARRY NACHMAN and FRANK KORNACKER also leading sessions. This activity is extremely important in helping the younger men ready themselves for state examinations. It has taken on new significance since the state law now requires 3 years practical experience before taking the examination.

Currently classes are being held on Monday and Thursday evenings in the Auditorium of the Chicago Lighting Institute at Dearborn and Adams Streets.

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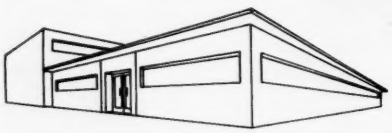
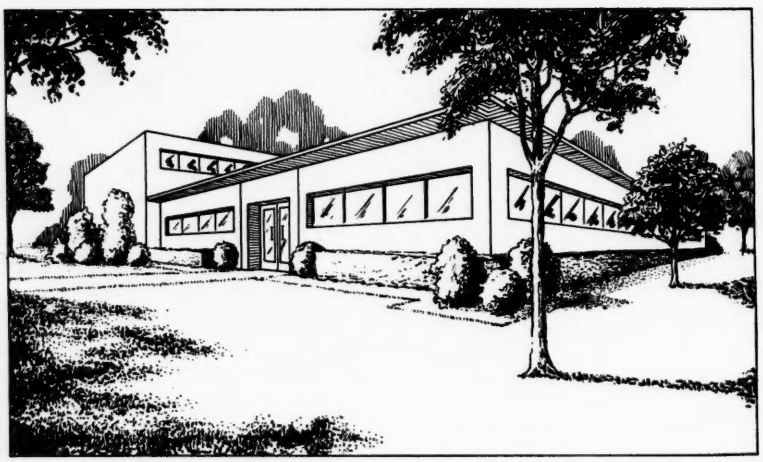


Proper landscaping is an indispensable part of the environment you seek to create with your buildings. Why leave so important a part of your clients' projects to chance? To be sure you get the setting that shows your clients' buildings to best advantage, include landscaping in your plans and specifications.

And remember, only locally grown trees, shrubs and evergreens are pre-conditioned to thrive in Chicagoland soil and climate.



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ILLINOIS BELL TELEPHONE

MEMBERSHIP

AIA CHICAGO CHAPTER

APPLYING FOR CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

LUDWICK THEODORE BLUMBERG

THOMAS A. EMMA

Privileged communications should be sent to the President, Secretary or any member of the Board within two weeks.

NEWLY ELECTED CORPORATE MEMBERS

BENEDICT SIGFUSSON

Born: Elmhurst, Illinois, 1927. Education: University of Illinois, B. S. in Architectural Engineering. Member, Construction Specifications Institute, Inc. Professional Experience: Sargent & Lundy, 1951-1952 as structural designer, 1952-1956 with Vern E. Alden, Engineers, and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill as Architectural Job Captain, from 1956-1958 with Samuelson & Sandquist as Project Manager. At present he is a partner in the firm of Robert Shelp & Sigfusson, licensed to practice in Illinois.

HERBERT R. SHAFFER

Born: Chicago, Illinois, 1926. Education: Illinois State Normal University, Normal, Ill., and University of Illinois, Champaign, Ill., M. S., Arch. Professional Experience: assistant designer, Shaw Metz and Dolio, 1949-1952; architectural designer and draftsman, Greta Lederer, 1952-1953; chief designer, Sidney H. Morris and Assoc., 1953 to present. Licensed to practice architecture in Illinois.

NEWLY ELECTED ASSOCIATE MEMBER

ROBERT LEO PILTZ

Born: Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1934. Professional Training: Eschweiler & Eschweiler, 1955 to 1958; now working for Derald M. West & Assoc. as a designer.

ADDENDUM

AAI Battling Senate Bill 46

Illinois Senate Bill 46 now being studied by the State Legislature embodies most of Governor Stratton's ideas on economical operation of the State through re-organization of governmental departments. Since the provisions of the bill call for the elimination of the Department of Registration and Education and will place much of the work formerly done by that Department under the Department of Labor, the bill is of vital concern to all architects interested in preserving their stature as professional men.

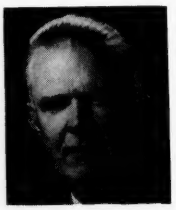
The Executive Committee of the Senate, Merritt J. Little, Chairman, has tentatively scheduled a hearing on April 21st for consideration of this bill. The Architects Association of Illinois, as the body representing the profession in this State, has been actively studying the bill and has held several meetings to discuss its implications and to formulate a plan of action to protect the interests of the profession. The AAI, according to Lee C. Mielke, President, anticipates that additional hearings will be held over a period of perhaps two months. These hearings, he said, will not only offer the profession an opportunity to be heard in matters directly concerned with Senate Bill 46 and the contemplated reorganization of governmental departments, but will also offer the profession an opportunity to seek the creation of a long term Commission which could serve to reduce the amount of political influence now hampering the enforcement of the State Licensing Act.

To be effective in creating this commission, which would place the various activities of the building industry under the jurisdiction of a single governmental administrative head, every architect should contact his legislator and inform him of the need for revisions which will keep the construction industry regulations and enforcement activity consistent with the public interest and the tenets of the profession.

A series of mailings to all AIA members is planned to inform them of the problems the profession is facing and to outline the concept of the proposed administrative commission. The proposal is intended to unify the construction industry registration, licensing and enforcement activities within the State.

Charles B. Rowe, AIA

Charles B. Rowe, AIA, who practiced in Park Ridge, Ill., and who was an active and devoted member of the Chicago Chapter passed away a short time ago. The Chapter and the profession of architecture are indebted to him for his unstinting service in local committee work, especially the Legislative Committee, and as a delegate to the AAI and to the AIA national conventions.



His civic service was likewise broad: he served on the Park Ridge Plan Commission for more than 30 years and was an alderman there for four years. He was a member of the Methodist Church, the Masons, the American Legion and the Lions Club.

Women's Architectural League

The April meeting will be on Wednesday the 29th at 10:30 AM, at the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, second floor, 116 South Michigan. This is a coffee klache meeting to view the AIA educational films and to elect officers for the coming year.

The nominating committee consisting of Mesdames Cone, Babbin, Esgar, Mathews and Schlossman selected the following slate for consideration by the membership:

Nominees to serve for one year:

President.....Mrs. Edward L. Burch

2nd V.P.....Mrs. John R. Fugard, Jr.

Corr. Secy.....Mrs. Dearald M. West

Nominees to serve for two years:

1st V.P.....Mrs. Harold Geilman

3rd V.P.....Mrs. Jack Train

Rec. Secy.....Mrs. Robert H. Jesson

Treasurer.....Mrs. Walter H. Sobel

Hereafter in alternate years all officers will be elected for two (2) year terms.

The March 24th meeting at the

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Tavern Club heard Committee Chairmen read their reports in rhyme as composed by Mrs. Walter Sobel. The 54 members present selected 5 designs for a W.A.L. signet from over 30 designs submitted. The favored five were submitted by Mesdames Yerkes, Burch, West and Esgar. A final selection will be made at a later date.

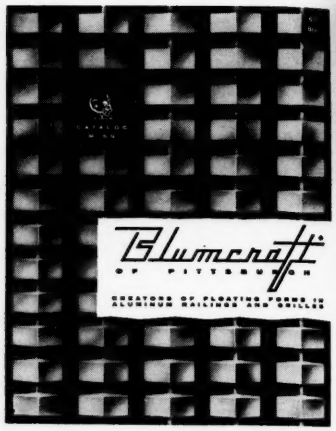
Don't forget the May 15th cocktail dance at the Arts Club from 6 to 9 PM. This benefit is to start a Student Aid Fund and has been named "The Seaway Soiree" in honor of the coming International Trade Fair and opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Color Brochure on Porcelain Panels

A full-color brochure, illustrating with details and photos examples of how architectural porcelain panels were used in curtain wall construction and as facing material, is available from Davidson Enamel Products, Inc., 1126 E. Kirby St., Lima, Ohio.

Aluminum Grilles By Blumcraft

Grill-O-Metrics, a new 3-dimensional grille developed by Blumcraft of Pittsburgh, built of sculptured extrusions, is illustrated in its new catalogue M-59.



The grilles can be used for complete building surfacing, railing panels, sun screens, and room dividers. By omitting any number of facets, an architect may create his own patterns. The facets are available in either circular or rectangular patterns; vertical background supports are furnished in black anodized finish. Grill-O-Metrics cost less than custom-built aluminum grilles, according to Blumcraft.

Revere Electric Moves to New Chicago Plant

The Revere Electric Manufacturing Company, makers of industrial and commercial lighting outdoor equipment, has moved to a new plant at 7420 Lehigh Avenue in Niles, Ill. Included in the plant is room for manufacturing, storage, and well equipped laboratory space. Along with the new plant that doubles their previous space, Revere is also expanding their sales and engineering staff.

Melby, Manager

Chicagoan Glenn G. Melby has been appointed Manager of the Materialite Architectural Department of Material Service Corporation. A civil engineer, Mr. Melby has been a designer of reinforced concrete structures, notably cement and steel plants and hydro-electric installations. His previous service also includes positions of design project engineer in the United States, India and South America.

Waterproof Colors

A new brochure on *Hydrocide Colorcoat*, decorative and protective

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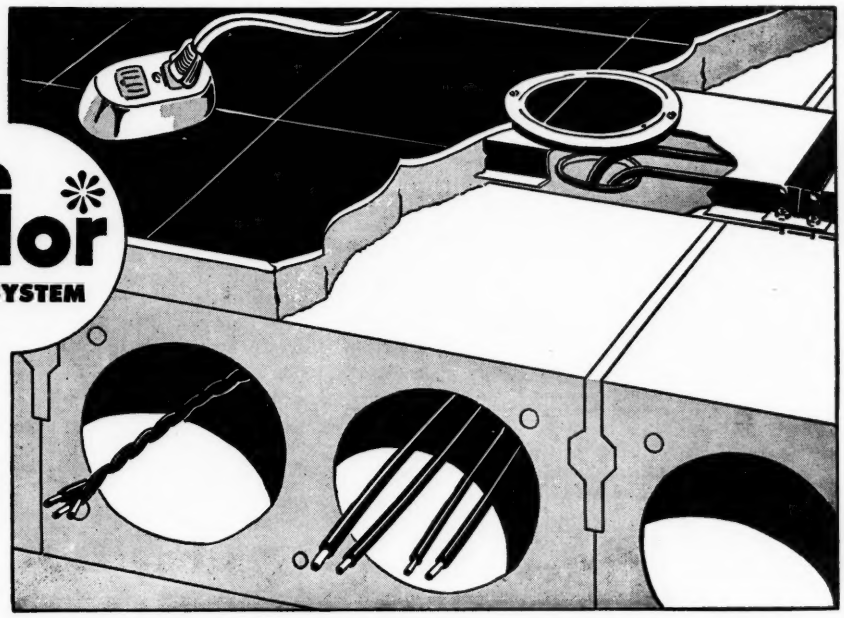

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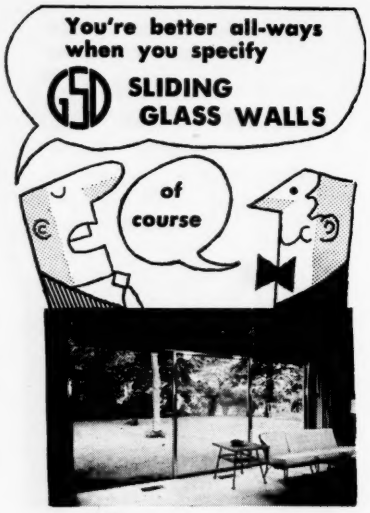

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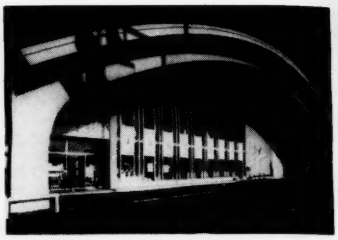
coating has been published by the Building Products Division of L. Sonneborn Sons, Inc. It is a four page, fully illustrated brochure outlining the properties and advantages of Hydrocide Colorcoat, a heavy-bodied, textured decorative coating for exterior masonry walls above grade with outstanding weather resistance. The brochure includes detailed application, specification and coverage data as well as all information needed to select and apply it properly with brush, roller or spray. Color chips of the ten colors available are attached.

Faulkner Wins Church Award

The architectural design of First Church of Christ Scientist, Williamsburg, Virginia, which is the work of Chas. D. Faulkner, of Chicago, was awarded highest honors for its excellence at the recent annual convention of The Church Architectural Guild of America in Los Angeles.

The Church is of the Colonial style in harmony with the Williamsburg environment. It seats only 100 in the auditorium and features a reading room with fireplace, covered porch, and garden. The interior coloration is in white, greenish blue and brown.



Laminated timber arch above is at entrance to a supermarket in Wisconsin. The arches were provided by Unit Structures of Peshtigo, Wisc. and are said to typify a trend in architectural design in the use of laminated timbers.

Another Exam

Examinations for positions of Architect III for the City of Chicago and the Chicago Board of Education will be held May 9. Applications must be on file by May 5. Contact Mr. Lenox, RA 6-8000, ext. 577 or call at Room 208, City Hall.

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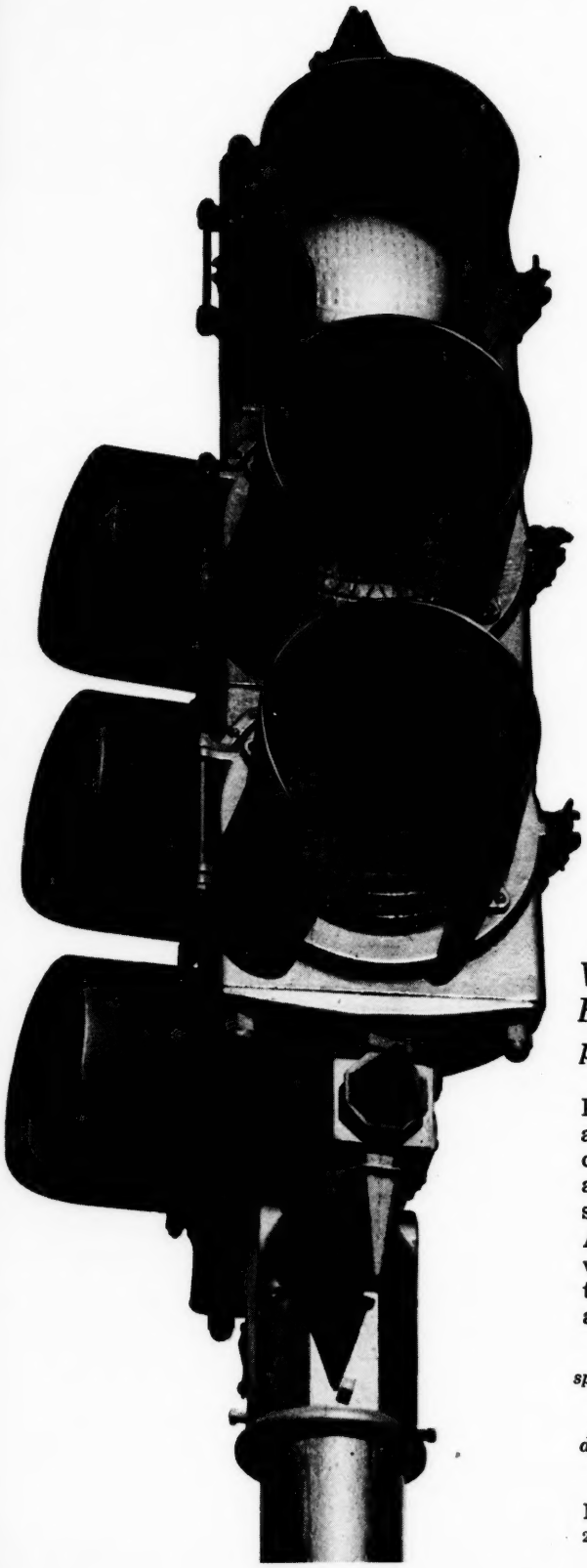

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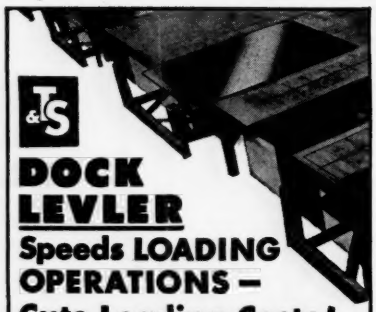

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Historic Chicago Structures

This is the first in the series of vignettes on historic Chicago area buildings documented by the Chicago AIA Committee for the Preservation of Historic Buildings.

The building pictured here is the Richard Bellinger Cottage at 2121 Hudson Avenue presently owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Karl Liebrich. It was designed by Architect W. W. Boyington circa 1860.

As one of the two houses (the other being the mansion of Mahlon D. Ogden) to survive in the area swept by the 1871 fire it has historic interest both because it is typical of the modest frame residences of the period prior to 1871 and because of the manner in which it was saved from the Great Fire. Policeman Bellinger is reported to have raked and burned his leaves together with his wooden fences and sidewalks as the fire threatened his house. The roof was kept wet first by cistern water, then by water carried from the 10 mile ditch one block to the east and finally by dousing with cider. In his book

Fabulous Chicago Emmett Dedmon writes, "Bellinger was probably the only man to fight the fire directly and win."

This structure is among 93 Chicago buildings photographed and documented since 1956 by members of the Chicago Chapter AIA Committee for the Preservation of Historic Buildings. The committee chairman is LEO J. WEISSENBORN and one of the members is EARL H. REED, national chairman of the AIA Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings.

The record of each building is distributed to the Library of Congress, the AIA Library, the National Park Service, the National Trust and locally to the Burnham Library at the Art Institute. *Written by Edward A. Campbell*

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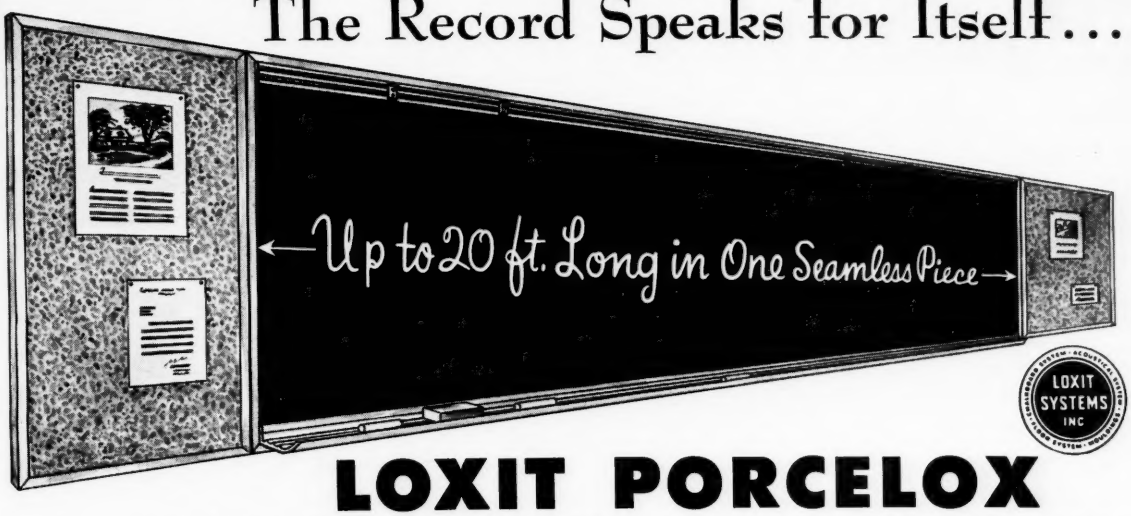

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Beach Park Grade School, Waukegan	Hal Chalmers & Associates
Burton's Bridge School, McHenry County	Fred Lindsay
Chicago Vocational High School	John C. Christensen
Dominican College, Racine	Barry & Kay
Dunbar Vocational High School, Chicago	Holabird & Root
East Prairie School, Skokie	Edwin C. Bruno
Edison Elementary School, Kankakee	Atkins, Barrow & Associates
Elihu Yale Elementary, Chicago	John C. Christensen
Elmhurst College Chapel	B. F. Olson
Fox River Grove Grade School	K. H. Sheldon
Franklin Elementary School, Kankakee	Atkins, Barrow & Associates
Franklin Jr. High, Springfield	L. Philip Trutter
Gower School, Hinsdale	Wight & Associates
Grade School Addition, Grass Lake	Maxon, Smith & Millin
Grade School, Gary, Illinois	Rudolph & Young
Herzel Elementary, Chicago	John C. Christensen
High School, Franklin Grove	Samuelson & Sandquist
High School, Paw Paw, Illinois	Samuelson & Sandquist
Immaculate Conception, Highland Park	Bruno Lunardi
Infant Jesus of Prague, Flossmoor	Fox & Fox
Int'l Mineral & Chemical, Skokie	Perkins & Will
Josephinum High School, Chicago	Gaul & Voosen
Kent Labr., University of Chicago	Schmidt, Garden & Erickson
Laboratory Sch. Ill. State Normal University	Lundeen & Hilfinger
Lake Forest High School Addition	Stanley Anderson & Associates
Little Flower School, Springfield	J. T. Golabowski
Lombard Junior High School	Barry & Kay
Lourdes High School, Chicago	Private Plans
Mark Twain Elementary, Kankakee	Atkins, Barrow & Associates
McMurray Bldg. Northern Ill. University	Samuelson & Sandquist
Medical Research Lab., Univ. of Chicago	Skidmore, Owings & Merrill
Metcalf School, Ill. State Normal University	Keith E. Middleton
Myrtle E. Huff. Elem. School, Elgin	Richard J. Stromberg
New West Side Elementary School, Elgin	Frazier & Raftery
New West Side Jr. High School, Elgin	LeRoy Thompson
Oakview Junior High School, Skokie	Orput & Orput
Our Lady of Bethlehem Academy, LaGrange	Gaul & Voosen
Peter Hoy School, Lombard, Illinois	Barry & Kay
Pioneer School, South Elgin	Richard J. Stromberg
Roswell Mason Elementary, Chicago	John C. Christensen
Santa Maria Del Popolo, Mundelein	Private Plans
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United Protestant Edu. Bldg., Grayslake	Hal Chalmers & Associates
Wadsworth Rd. Grade School, Waukegan.	Hal Chalmers & Associates
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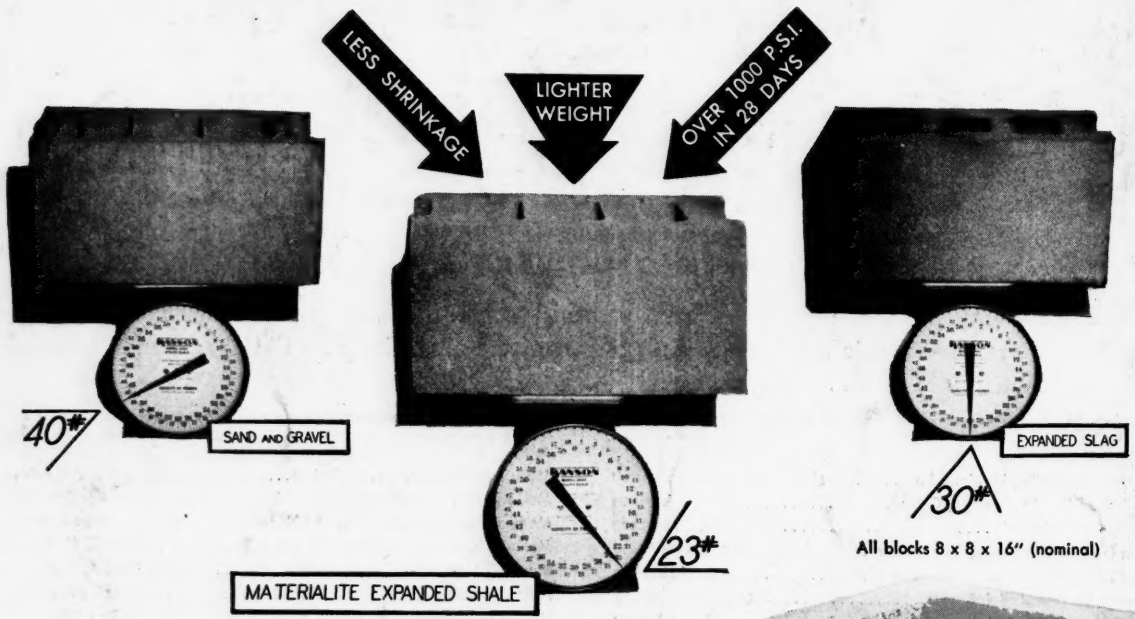

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